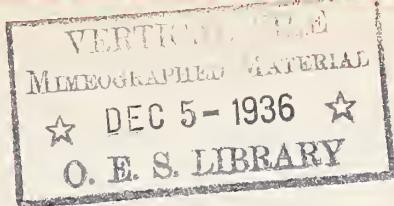


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USING NATURAL DYES ON WOOL MATERIALS

During the winter months a good many women will find time to dye and make up the materials they have saved for hooked rugs, hand-woven scarfs, coverlets, and other articles for home furnishing. If they have saved some of the flowers, barks, leaves, and nut hulls that give good natural-dye colors, they can prepare their wool yarns and pieces at very little cost. One necessary expense, however, will be for chemicals required as mordants, which help to fix the color to the fabric. If mordants are not used, many of the natural dyes will fade and "bleed" badly.

Those who have had considerable experience with home dyeing have found it advisable to be ready to dye at one time the entire amount of yarn or cloth needed for a piece of handicraft work, instead of trying to match the color by a second dyeing. Vegetable dye materials vary so much that it is almost impossible to duplicate colors exactly.

Special directions are needed for using the additional chemicals that go with each kind of dye. They can be obtained from the

extension service at _____, or from the
(State) _____ (P.O. address)
U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Several general points apply to all dye recipes. Woolens take dye best of all the textile fibers and change color the least. Dye materials must be weighed or measured, prepared as the dye recipe directs,

and strained into the water for the dye bath. Filtered rain water is needed, and plenty of it - at least 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ gallons for each pound of yarn or cloth. The yarn or fabric is first mordanted with the required chemical, rinsed well, squeezed lightly, and then quickly immersed in the dye bath. To reach all parts evenly, the material is well opened out and kept in constant motion. The temperature of the dye bath must be just lukewarm when wool is put in. Then the dye is heated gradually and the material simmered according to directions. As the dye bath boils down, it is necessary to lift the yarn or cloth out from time to time and add boiling water so as to keep the quantity of dye bath the same throughout the process.

The dyed yarn or fabric must be rinsed first in water of the same temperature as the dye bath, and finally in cooler water. Rinsing is continued in plenty of water until the rinse water is clear. Squeeze or press out as much water from the dyed material as possible, but do not twist or wring it. Roll the material for a few minutes in a clean cloth or towel to absorb excess moisture, then shake well and hang in the shade. When the fabric is dry enough to iron, cover it with a cloth and press on the wrong side.

To obtain colors that are darker or lighter than those suggested by the recipes, increase or decrease the given quantities of dyestuffs.

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